



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * March 2001*

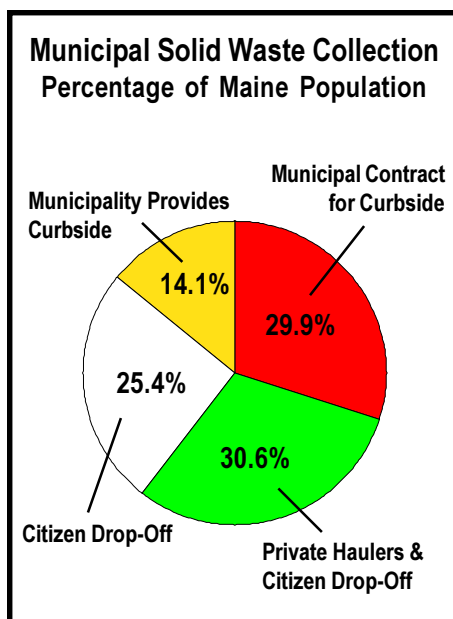
Municipal Solid Waste Collection Snapshot

In 1999, 280 communities or regions, representing a total population of 1,228,490, reported managing 785,616 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW). Residential recycling increased by nearly 3,000 tons to 92,891 tons.

According to the 1999 data, curbside pick-up of MSW was available to residents in 137 communities, serving 44% of Maine's population.

The data also shows that residents that dropped off their trash at the transfer stations generated the least trash per person at 0.3801 tons/year.

For more detailed analysis of the 1999 municipally reported MSW data, please contact Hank Tyler at 287-6489.



Target, Mercury

As part of the State's ongoing and multi-pronged offensive to remove all mercury containing products generated by human activity from our environment, the State Planning Office (SPO) will roll out the mercury recycling grant program starting in March.



The Recycling Assistance Program for Mercury Added Products (see December 2000 issue of *Recycle This!* for details) has been developed in cooperation with the Remediation and Waste Management Division of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP).

Letters and application forms will be sent out during the first week of March. Eligible entities are limited to municipalities, their regional associations, and sanitary and sewer districts. Entities with overlapping service areas and jurisdictions are encouraged to apply together. Preference will be given to regional associations and entities with the ability and willingness to act as a regional host site.

Priorities for this program are:

- Storage facilities for mercury added products and other universal wastes;
- Assisting existing HHW programs in expanding their collections to include waste mercury added products and other universal wastes.

Applications are due back to the SPO by April 30th, 2001. All applicants will be notified as to the status of their application no later than June 1st, 2001. If your town or program has not received an application by March 15th, please call Sam Morris at 287-8054 or e-mail sam.morris@state.me.us.



New on the SPO Web Site

SPO strives to keep its web site as current and relevant to your needs as possible by posting all of our documents in a timely manner and constantly adding new features. Recent additions include updated links to municipal solid waste and recycling sites, updated Pay-As-You-Throw resources, a new fact sheet on Extended Product Responsibility, and much more. SPO also plans to dedicate a new section of the site to Waste Reduction, the #1 priority in Maine's solid waste management hierarchy.

Visit our site often at www.recyclemaine.com! If you have suggestions for additions to our site, please contact Shannon Haines at 287-8053.

Earth Day: An Opportunity to Promote Waste Reduction & Recycling

Earth Day, April 22nd, is a once-a-year opportunity to grab hold of the public's attention and promote recycling and waste reduction as a simple, effective means of environmental stewardship that everyone can participate in. Earth Day has been celebrated since 1970 and is now a well-known date in most households. Earth Day occurs on the same day every year, April 22nd, at a time when the weather is starting to warm up and people are more receptive to environmental ideas.



The activities that you can plan in celebration of Earth Day are unlimited. Because each community is different from the next, some activities may be more appropriate for one community than for another. The following is a list of ideas, by waste management topic. Whether you choose to do one or more of the following or whether you come up with your own ideas, don't forget to let the press know what you are planning so that they can cover your efforts!

Recycling

- Organize a special collection of a material that you don't normally take, such as electronics.
- Make recycling presentations at the local schools.
- Add a new material to your recycling program.
- Develop a new promotional piece, like a door hanger or a brochure, and have it delivered to every household in the



community.

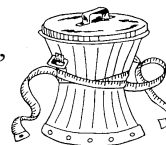
- Set up displays on recycling at the local schools, library, or town office.
- Hold a recycling bin swap, where residents can bring in broken or damaged recycling bins in exchange for new ones.
- Hold an open house at your facility.
- Sponsor a contest at the local schools to come up with a mascot for your recycling program.
- Work with public access TV station to create an informative video about your local recycling program (what is accepted, how to prepare materials, where they go, etc.) that will air on Earth Day.
- Organize a recycling fair.
- Work with your local radio station and record an Earth Day-related public service announcement to promote your recycling program.

Composting

- Organize a compost bin sale.
- Hold composting demonstrations at a central location in town. Contact your local Cooperative Extension office for assistance.
- Work with local schools to compost their cafeteria food waste.
- Work with your local radio station to record an Earth Day-related public service announcement on backyard composting.
- Raffle off a compost bin, finished compost & other garden items.

Waste Reduction

- Organize a "green" shopping campaign - work with local stores to label environmental products; themes to focus on: buying in bulk, purchasing for



recyclability, buying recycled, buying products that are minimally packaged, and using reusable tote bags.

- Start a business waste reduction recognition program, through which local businesses will be publicly recognized for waste reduction activities. Suggested activities would include: double-sided copying, increased use of durables over disposables, electronic advertising, etc.

General

- Organize a community clean up day - have a contest for who can make the most interesting piece of artwork out of trash that is collected.
- Organize a household hazardous waste collection.
- Work with the local high school and/or junior high to organize a recycled content fashion show - this event can be used as a fundraiser!
- Hold nontoxic cleaning demonstrations.

The number of potential Earth Day events is virtually limitless. What is important is that you take advantage of this day to do something, anything, to promote your program. If you would like further assistance or more suggestions, please feel free to call SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program at 1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050.

If you have Internet access, you can get more ideas for Earth Day activities at the following web sites:

www.earthday.net

www.earthday.wilderness.org

www.earthdaybags.org

Legislative Update

The following is a list of waste management related bills that have been introduced as of 2/22/01 to the First Regular Session of the 120th Maine Legislature.

- *LD 131 - An Act to Extend and Amend the Requirement for Giving Prior Notice of Acquisitions of Solid Waste Businesses*
- *LD 230 - An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Fee Paid When Purchasing a New Tire or Battery*
- *LD 455 - An Act to Increase Reimbursement Rates for Maine's Bottle Redemption Businesses*
- *LD 504 - An Act to Establish the State's Recycling and Waste Reduction Goals*
- *LD 509 - An Act to Regulate Waste Transfer Facilities*
- *LD 527 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the DEP*
- *LD 621 - An Act to Promote the Recycling of Household Batteries*
- *LD 828 - An Act to Encourage Proper Disposal of Propane Tanks*
- *LD 839 - An Act to Allow a Property Tax Exemption to Landowners Whose Property Abuts a Solid Waste Facility*
- *LD 886 - An Act to Establish a Clean Government Initiative*
- *LD 907 - An Act to Address Sludge-spreading Licenses*

For more information on these bills, and to track their progress, visit:
<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/status/search.asp>

Workshops focus on Seafood Composting Issues

The State Planning Office and the Department of Environmental Protection are co-sponsoring "Exploring Utilization Options and Opportunities," a series of three workshops on utilizing seafood processing residuals.



These morning workshops will be held 9-12 at:

- Samoset Inn, Rockport on March 6th.
- Holiday Inn, Ellsworth on March 8th.
- Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland on March 13th

Topics to be discussed include:

- "Utilizing Seafood Processing Residuals"
- "The Community Approach to Residual Management"
- "Marketing Mega Trends for Seafood"
- "From Trash to Cash"

The Portland workshop will also include "Financial Opportunities in the Greater Portland Area." The Ellsworth program will have two additional topics, "Bringing Seafood Residuals to the Farm, Overcoming Obstacles" and "Types of Assistance Offered by Hancock County Planning."

For more information, to register, or to receive a report on the workshops please contact Sam Morris at 207-287-8054 or Mark King, 207-287-2430.

The 21st Century Campus Conference

The 21st Century Campus Conference will be held on April 6, 2001. This conference hopes to accomplish the following:

- Promote a philosophy of ethical, legal and financial accountability for green standards;
- Create a state/interstate consortium of campuses committed to campus greening;
- Educate, inspire and encourage leadership at all institutions levels;
- And provide a forum for institutions to learn from what others are doing.



The 21st Century Campus Conference will be held at the Atlantic Oaks Hotel in Bar Harbor and registration will begin at 8:00 AM. The registration fee is \$10 for students and \$35 for all others. The public is welcome to attend. For registration information, please call Tom Miragliuolo at 207-287-9074. For onsite accommodations call the Atlantic Oaks Hotel at 207-288-5801

2000 Municipal Solid Waste Annual Reports

The deadline for submitting the Municipal Solid Waste Annual Report is April 2, 2001. For those of you with Internet access, please remember that you can fill your form out electronically at: www.recyclemaine.com. If you have questions about completing the report, please contact Hank Tyler at 287-1489 or 1-800-662-4545.

Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com

New Publications Available from SPO

1999 Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report

A quick view shows that municipal solid waste tonnages increased in 1999, to nearly 1.7 million tons. Recycling efforts continued to grow, playing an important role in the management of the municipal solid waste. However, the growth in overall solid waste generation continues to outpace the towns' recycling efforts. The report also provides recommendations to reach the 50% recycling goal, a discussion of activities to address municipal waste toxicity, and information on the concept of 'Product Stewardship'.

Municipal Recycling Programs in Maine

This newly updated guide lists all of the recycling programs in the state, including contact information, materials accepted, and facility location.

Both of these publications are available on the SPO web site at: www.recyclemaine.com or by calling SPO at 1-800-662-4545.

Coming Soon

"Exploring Utilization Options and Opportunities,"

a series of 3 workshops on utilizing seafood processing residuals will be held in **March**. *(See page 3)*



The 21st Century Campus Conference will be held on **April 6, 2001** at the **Atlantic Oaks Hotel** in **Bar Harbor**. *(See page 3)*

The Annual Solid Waste Conference and Recyclathon will be held at the **Samoset Resort** in **Rockport** on **April 9-10, 2001**. For more information, call the MRRRA at 207-942-6772.

Earth Day is **April 22**. Celebrate recycling in your town! *(See page 2 for ideas)*